



A significant development in the fortunes of the Society is occurring — not in the Antipathies, exactly — but in faraway California. Thanks to the enterprise of Mark and Sandor Burstein, a West Coast Chapter has been formed, to provide a meeting-ground for those cut off by distance from our gatherings in the East. A successful preliminary meeting was held on Feb. 4th at Dr. Burstein's home in San Francisco, with 13 members or prospective members attending; plans were laid for a local newsletter, and for a first General Meeting in SF on Sunday, May 27th. *The Herald* has already reached its second number, and can be obtained from Mark Burstein, 4734 California St., SF, Cal., 94118. The meeting will feature Prof. W. W. Bartley III, on Carroll's logic; a performance by the Bay Theatre Collective; and a concurrent reading of *Alice* over radio station KUSP. Anyone wishing to attend should contact Mark at once (phone no. 415-221-2279). We congratulate the Bursteins on their initiative, and urge all Western members to lend it their active support. The formation of such 'outland-ish' groups is one of the aims of the Society, and we hope that other regions may be inspired by this example to follow suit.

The Society's Spring Meeting, in New York on May 19th, will be preceded, on the 18th, by celebrations at CUNY to mark the publication of Morton Cohen's edition of Carroll's *Letters*. Details will reach you shortly, if they have not done so already. Morton's edition of H.P. Liddon's *Russian Diary* (our next chapbook) is nearly ready, and should be available soon.

□ Theatrical Notes

As reported in the *New York Times* of Dec 20th, Elizabeth Swados' musical *Alice* folded abruptly before its first night, but received three concert performances on Dec 27th-29th, which were favorably reviewed by the same newspaper on the latter date, with praise for Miss Swados' music and lyrics, and for Meryl Streep as Alice. A two-page interview with the composer, in *The Chronicle Review* of Jan 9th, predicted a revival of the show at the Public Theater in March.

The Vinette Carroll — Mike Nichols version, which collapsed on the road in Philadelphia during the Summer, is also reported to be in process of revival, under the title *But Never Jam Today*. Meanwhile, the Prince St Players production appeared at the Town Hall Theater in New York, from Dec 21st - Jan 1st. Member Dorothy Rolph, who saw it, was not impressed.

Theatre — *A Celebration*, a two-performer children's entertainment by member Ben Indick, was staged during December by the Bag-a-Tale Players at the 13th St Theatre in New York. As the author tells it, a five-minute excerpt from *TLG* (Alice's run with the Red Queen) was the most popular item in a show that was well reviewed in *Show Business* of Jan 4th.

Member Douglas M. Bean reports that he, too, saw and 'thoroughly enjoyed' Michael Rothwell's *World of Lewis Carroll* in Cambridge. Thanks to him and David Lien, of the M. L. Byers agency, we are able to list further reviews, all favorable, as follows: Kevin Kelly, in the *Boston Globe*, Sept 15th; Elliot Norton, in the *Boston Herald American*, Sept 16th; Don Shewey, in the *Boston Phoenix*, Sept 26th; Kathleen Wernick, in *Spectator*, Sept 27th; and Nigel N. Jagan, in *Silhouette*, Sept 28th. Mr. Rothwell is to return next February, and will be touring in the South; so those who missed him last time have a second chance.

□ Musical Motifs

Member David Del Tredici's *Final Alice* was performed on Public Television on Dec 18th, by the Boston Symphony under Seigi Ozawa, with Barbara Hendricks as the indispensable soloist.



Michael Rothwell, as Lewis Carroll, in conversation with Vanessa Alice St. Clair, six-year-old great-granddaughter of Alice Liddell. Photo courtesy of Diane Kacich, Harold Holt Ltd., London.

As noted by member Michael Hancher, *Malvina*, a Cassandra Records album (CFS-2807), of Malvina Reynolds' songs, includes "No Room", in which Alician allusions are related to the problem of overpopulation, while a hitherto unnoted reference to 'the Hatter in Wonderland' turns up (of all places) in Irving Berlin's (1940) "Wild About You".

□ Other Activities

On March 8th, the Chicago branch of the English-Speaking Union held a 'Mad Tea Party', at which your President was the featured speaker, addressing a responsive audience of about 70, of whom quite a number enquired about joining the Society. Further missionary endeavor ensued the following weekend at Wake Forest University, N.C., where the delivery of a Roebuck Lecture drew an equally good attendance and response. Not to be outdone, your Vice-President has been spellbinding the Homemakers of Springbrook Forest, in the D.C. area (March 8th), with an illustrated talk on the early movies of *Alice*.

Morton Cohen's forthcoming *LC, Photographer of Children: Four Nude Studies* (Clarkson Potter, \$10.00) received an early review, by Howard Smith and Cathy Cox, in *Voice* of April 2nd. A laudatory preview of the *Letters* appeared in *Kirkus Reviews* of March 1st. And an article by Morton, "LC's Child Photography", figured in the January number of the *Illustrated London News*.

The Classical Bulletin, no. 55, of January last, contains "The Absent Ablative and the Search for Alice's Brother's Latin Grammar", in which member August A. Imholtz argues, ingeniously, that it was actually a Greek grammar, and that Alice has blundered, as usual, in mistaking the Greek *mousa* (muse) for the Latin *mus* (mouse).

On the international front, member Horst Muggenburg sends details of a German musical *Alice*, presented on WDR III radio on Jan 28th. As reported in *Die Zeit* of Dec 8th, the list of 100 Great Books in an earlier issue provoked furious controversy among its readers, and extended comment from *L'Express* (France) on Nov 11th and *Espresso* (Italy) on Nov 25th, which both published rival lists. Carroll's name, faithfully misspelt throughout, appears, we are glad to say, on all of them. Horst also reports a new pair of German *Alices*: a standard one by Jugend Heute, of Vienna, at DM 4,95 (both books in one; Tenniel illustrations), and a neat pair of paperbacks from Deutscher Taschenbuch Verlag of Munich, at DM 6,80 each (translated by Lieselotte Remané, with Frans Haacken illustrations). From Amsterdam, member E. E. Pattynama records the publication in Jakarta last year of two Indonesian versions: *Elisa di negeri ajaib* and *Elisa menembuskan cermin*, by Julius R. Siyaranamual, with Tenniel pictures. PT Gramedia are the publishers; price not known.

"I never read a book before reviewing it", said Sydney Smith, "it prejudices a man so." No such prejudice need cloud our welcome to the Boojum number of *Wauwelwok*, issued by our friends of the Lewis Carroll Genootschap in Holland. Since the articles are all in Dutch, they are *rather* hard to understand, and seem to fill the head with ideas — only one doesn't exactly know what they are. An English table of contents provides a helping hand, however. Like its predecessor, *Alice in Nederland*, the Boojum number can be ordered (at \$4.00 a copy) from A. M. Willemse, Grunder 50, 1103 HB Amsterdam Zuidoost, Netherlands.

□ Press Clippings

Obese and skinny versions of the Tweedle brothers were used to illustrate an article on inflation, by Robert L. Heilbroner, in the *New York Times* of Dec 22nd.

The Picture Supplement of the *Minneapolis Tribune* for Dec 24th included an Alician design by Nancy Entwistle, somewhat incongruously annexed to a quotation from *Little Women*.

The *NYT National Economic Survey* of Jan 7th carried an article by N. R. Kleinfield, which — perhaps reflecting the author's bewilderment — could not decide whether its title was “Through the Economic Looking-Glass” or “Alice in Economic Wonderland”.

Still pounding the same beat, the Jan 22nd issue of *NYT* featured an essay by William Safire, “Slithy Toves of CIA”, on the sinister disappearance of, from a sloop named *Brillig*, of a Carroll-fancying CIA man, John Arthur Paisley. The piece begins with an excerpt from *Jabberwocky*, and ends with a four-stanza parody of it, whose intelligence allusions are too opaque to justify quotation here.

Talking of Jabberwocks, member Andrew Ogus sends word of a papermill of that name, reported by *Printnews* to have opened last November at the Tasmanian School of Art in Hobart, Tasmania. And talking of Mr. Ogus, a splendid Caterpillar has been added to his range of rubber stamps, referred to in our last issue. The price is \$4.50 plus \$1.00 handling charge.

Alice herself, tuning a television set, made the front cover of the February *Atlantic Monthly*. Just a come-on, apparently; there was nothing about her inside the magazine, so far as we could see. (Thanks to Michael Hancher for several of the above items, and others elsewhere in this issue).

□ Book Notes and Notices

In *Alice Through the Pillar Box and What She Found There*, Gerald M. King, a British Carrollian and philatelist, has come up with the magnificently silly idea of an Alician stamp album, with portions of the text, in elegant calligraphy, accompanying a weird and wonderful selection of Tenniel-esque stamps, first-day covers, postmarks and special issues, all lovingly printed in color and prefaced by a charming postscript from Paul Jennings. A less practised hand could easily have made this into yet another would-be whimsical disaster, but such are the author's knowledge, inventiveness and wit that he not only plays his self-invented game with flawless precision; he even supplies a new dimension to the tales themselves. The imaginary envelopes are full of sly jokes and apt allusions: Humpty Dumpty's address (of course) is Wall St.; the Duchess-and-Baby stamp bears the superscription ‘Child Welfare Week’; Bill's involuntary blast-off is postmarked Cape Chimney, and the stamp commemorates ‘First Lizard in Space’; the Jabberwocky Centennial Issue has an error printed in reverse; and the White Knight falling from his horse bears the legend ‘Road Safety Week’. Carroll, with his deep interest in postal matters, would surely have delighted in this book, and the reader can only do likewise. Published by Whizzard Press, in association with André Deutsch of London, at £ 4.50 in U.K.

Good news, by the way, for philalacists: to mark the International Year of the Child, the British Post Office is issuing, on July 18th, four genuine stamps, designed by Edward Hughes, depicting Peter Rabbit (9p.), The Wind in the Willows (10½p.), Winnie-the-Pooh (11p.) and, inevitably, Alice (13p.).

One does not look to the Marvel Comics people for a definitive edition of *Alice*, but their recent comic strip version is actually a very respectable adaptation, neatly, if a little cutely, drawn (after Tenniel), tastefully colored, and captioned with considerable fidelity to the text. The Puppy, Mock Turtle and Gryphon are omitted, but very little else. Doug Moench (adaptor), Frank Bolle (illustrator) and their helpers deserve praise for a production which (at 60c.) is good value for money, and may one day be sought as a collector's piece.

Songs from Alice, to music by Don Harper, and with illustrations by Charles Folkard, has been published by A. & C. Black (London) at £ 2.95; also in cassette form at £ 3.25, or both together at £5.95. It was briefly but favorably reviewed in the *London Times Lit. Supp.* of Dec 1st.

Except for those who enjoy believing six impossible things before breakfast, Linda Goodman's *Sun Signs* (1968), a much-reprinted Bantam paperback, would not normally call for mention in these columns. Its zodiacal character-sketches for all the family are absurd enough, even by the standards of judicial astrology. But fortunately the authoress does not take herself *too* seriously, and has had the wit to adorn every section of her handbook with a wide range of well-chosen quotations from *Alice* and *The Hunting of the Snark*.

Julia Margaret Cameron: A Victorian Family Portrait, by Brian Hill (St Martins, 1973), is a well-written biography of the tireless (though tiresome) doyenne of Victorian photographers. Carroll was not one of her admirers, but his portrait of her is featured on the dust-jacket, and "Hiawatha's Photographing" is quoted in full on pp. 101-5.



Member Dan Singer, as Lewis Carroll, at the San Francisco Dickens Christmas Fair.

The Knight Letter is the official newsletter of the Lewis Carroll Society of North America and is distributed free to all members. It is edited by Peter Heath, in cooperation with the Society's Editorial Board, and produced by Papercraft Printing of Charlottesville, Va. Subscriptions, business correspondence and inquiries should be addressed to the Secretary, The Lewis Carroll Society of North America, 617 Rockford Road, Silver Spring, Md. 20902. Submissions and editorial correspondence should be addressed to the Editor, *The Knight Letter*, 808 Winston Terrace, Charlottesville, Va. 22903.

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